

SPEAKING FROM

topside

Welcome to the all-new update of one of the longest-running service publications in the Navy. With this issue, your new *Navy Civil Engineer* magazine debuts a new look, a new outlook — and fresh energy for service in an all-new world.

With CEC officers, Seabees and many of our civilian corps at work on the war in Iraq or battling the threats of terrorism, 2003 already is shaping up as a time of significant challenge as well as opportunity.

Our challenges in Iraq and elsewhere in the world are many, but American and coalition forces are today literally making the world a safer place in which to live.

It was against this sobering backdrop that we recently celebrated the 2003 Washington-area Anniversary Ball. I was truly honored and pleased to host this

celebration of the 161st birthday of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, the 136th anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps and the 61st anniversary of the Seabees. Our special guest speaker was the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. William J. Fallon.

My wife, Terry, and I were honored to have Adm. Fallon at our head table, where we were also joined by current Acting Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. H. T. Johnson. We were equally honored to share this special occasion with a large number of distinguished veterans and retirees, area Seabees, CEC officers and our civilian employees.

Our Command history is long and fascinating. NAVFAC began in 1842 as the Bureau of Yards and Docks, but today we do much more than build and maintain shipyards and Naval stations.

In our 161 years, Team NAVFAC has become the premier facili-

ties authority among all the military services — with the effectiveness provided by speaking in and working with “One Facilities Engineer Voice.”

We’ve taken the lead in adopting Web-based technology and advanced business practices, providing creative engineering and construction solutions, and keeping our commitments to all our DoD clients.

But most importantly, the Navy and Marine Corps Combat Team trust us to be their provider of choice when it comes to facilities engineering support. No other facilities engineering organization can match our accomplishments. We will continue to lead in technical innovation, facilities engineering, acquisition and construction, while enhancing Naval readiness ashore — and improving the quality of service for our military members, our civilian workforce and families into the 21st century.





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EDITORIAL

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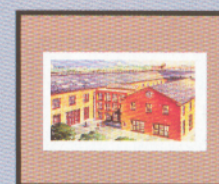
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NCE is the publication of the
United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps,
active duty and reserve,
celebrating 136 years of proud service.

Our talented team, comprised of dedicated Civil Engineer Corps officers (active and reserve), other military personnel, civilians and contractors work around the world pioneering engineering applications and leading the Seabees in peace and war.

Fifty years ago, in Korea, the Seabees went to war in a cold, harsh land. They led the way into battle — positioning pontoons for the landing at Inchon, the first major success of that war.

They went behind enemy lines and liberated some trains to get the supply lines moving. And they built the runways that gave us the air superiority necessary to win the war.

At the end of the Korean War, the Seabees could look back with pride in their accomplishments and that once again they proved they could do any job in any weather at any time.

As we celebrate in July the 50th anniversary of the end of that terrible war, the brave men and women of our Seabees, with their counterparts throughout the Department of Defense, are now working hard to build and preserve peace and

defend freedom against tyrants and terrorist forces, and those who would harbor them.

We are once again reminded of our obligation to safeguard the legacy of our military, our Navy, our Civil Engineer Corps and our Seabees — a legacy of freedom, justice and liberty.

Right now as you read this column, our Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps officers are stationed and deployed around the globe. Some are at war, others offering aid and humanitarian assistance.

They are writing American history as they are deployed around the world with construction battalions both mobile and amphibious; Underwater Construction Teams; and at State Departments.

One and all, you are doing wonderful work! I could go on and on about the many marvelous accomplishments of Team NAVFAC, the Civil Engineer Corps and the Seabees. But in this forum, at least, I know I'm preaching to the choir, and I'll have plenty of opportunity for kudos in future issues of NCE.

For now, though, we've got some work to do.

Michael R. Johnson

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